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PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS

7. (Proposed Amendment) A computer readable medium storing a program to cause a computer to perform message-address management processing in a system capable of exchanging messages among a plurality of servers and clients, wherein the program causes a server computer to perform:

when a message address of a member of a message exchanging group is changed, absence response information including at least an old address and a new address of the member is caused to be received from the client;

determining, from a plurality of provided message address lists of message exchanging groups, a message address list including the old address of the member, and extracting message addresses of the rest of the members of the determined message address list, wherein the rest of the members includes members with message addresses that have not been changed;

determining a ~~server~~ domain information associated with each of the rest of the members of the determined message list;

specifying a server based upon the determined domain information, to which the absence response information is to be provided; ~~on the basis of the determined server or servers;~~ and

distributing the absence response information to the specified server or servers.

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13. (Proposed Amendment) A message-address management method for exchanging messages among a plurality of servers and clients, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of message address lists of message exchanging groups,

receiving, when a message address of a member of a message exchanging group changes, absence response information including at least an old address and a new address of the member;

determining, from ~~a~~ the plurality of provided stored message address lists of message exchanging groups, a message address list including the old address of the member, and extracting message addresses of the rest of the members of the determined message address list, wherein the rest of the members includes members with message addresses that have not been changed;

specifying one or more servers, based upon domain information of the extracted address or addresses, to which the absence response information is to be provided, ~~on the basis of the extracted message address or addresses;~~ and

distributing the absence response information to the one or more specified servers.

19. (Proposed Amendment) A message-address management apparatus for exchanging messages among a plurality of servers and clients, the apparatus comprising:

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means for storing a plurality of message address lists of message exchanging groups;

when a message address of a member of a message exchanging group is changed, absence response information including at least an old address and a new address of the member is caused to be received from the client;

means for determining, from a plurality of message address lists of message exchanging groups, a message address list including the old address of the member;

means for extracting message addresses of the rest of the members of the determined message address list;

means for determining a ~~server~~ domain information associated with each of the rest of the members of the determined message address list;

means for specifying a server, or servers, based upon the determined domain information, to which the absence response information is to be provided, ~~on the basis of the determined server or servers;~~ and

means for distributing the absence response information to the specified server or servers.